Workers of the World, Unite !

THE MILITANT

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IMPERIALIST ATROCITIES IN KOREA -- THE RECORD

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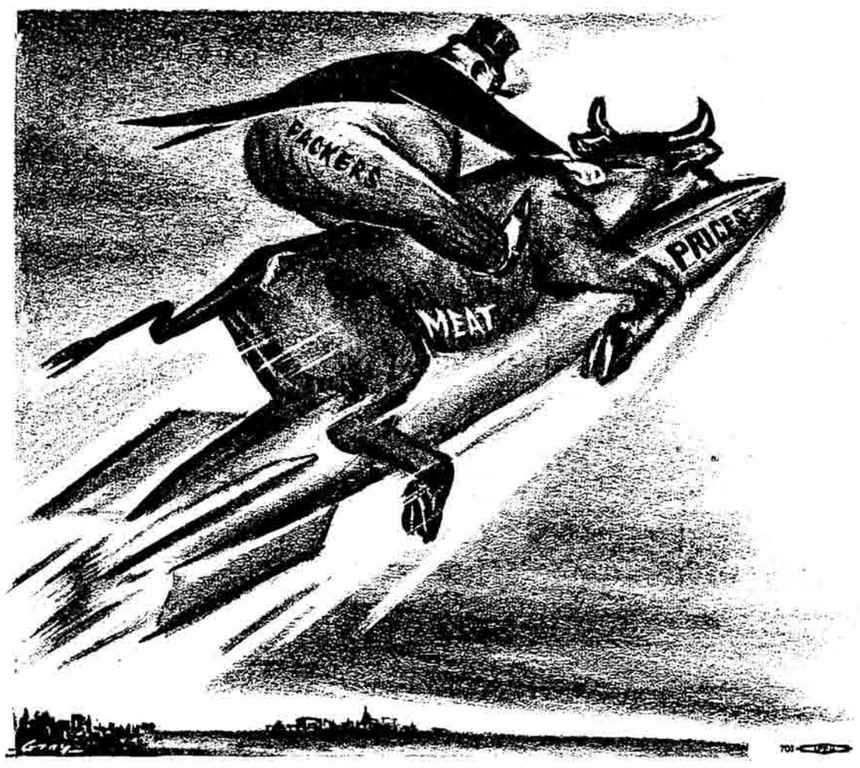
Destination Moon



Let the People of U.S. Vote on War and Peace

Asians Lead Revolt in UN Against U.S.

A full-fledged world-wide revolt against Washington's demands to close the door on peace negotiations with China has flared up in the United Nations. Led by the bloc of Asian nations, headed by India, a majority of the UN delegations last week gave a stinging rebuff to American imperialism's attempt to gain UN backing for intensification and extension of the war on China.

Following Peiping's rejection of the UN scheme for a "cease-fire" truce in Korea, which the Chinese said was intended only to give the U.S. armed forces a "breathing space," the U.S. State Department tried to brush aside China's counter-proposals and ram through the UN a resolution branding China as an "aggressor." This was intended as a first step toward economic and military "sanctions" by the UN.

Despite the tremendous pressure the U|S. government brought to bear, the Asian and Middle East countries, dragging along the British, Canadians and several Latin-American delegations, blocked the U.S. resolution. Instead, they over-rode the U.S. delegation to pass a motion to adjourn for 48 hours to further consider China's proposals for stopping the war in Korea and withdrawing all troops of foreign countries.

CHINA REPLY

It was disclosed by the Indian delegation that Peiping had sent a clarification of its proposals which, in the former's opinion, offered possibilities for concluding an agreement which would end the war in Korea and the im-

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Big Majority In U.S. Demand: Bring Troops Back Home Now!

By the Editor

The President of the United States, members of the Congress and the State Department are violating the will of the American people by refusing to stop the Korean war now.

In a letter to the President and Members of the Congress printed in **The Militant** July 31, 1950, shortly after the beginning of U.S. intervention in the Korean civil war, James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party stated that the American people would remember the War of Independence that brought this nation its freedom, and would react in our revolutionary and democratic traditions against the assault upon the Korean people. That is exactly how the American people have reacted.

On Dec. 4, 1950 James P. Cannon again addressed the responsible government officials stating that the heartfelt sentiment of the American people demanded that the President and the Congress stop the criminal aggression against the Asian people.

Get Out of Korea Now

Today it is clear that he was speaking for the overwhelming majority of Americans. The Gallup poll of Jan. 23 reports that two-thirds of the American people want to "pull our troops out of Korea as fast as possible." Almost one half are sure it was a mistake to send troops to Korea in the first place.

If the Korean war is for democracy, as Truman-Acheson pretend, why do they refuse to listen to the democratic will of the people?

On Jan. 18, United Press Staff Writer William Chapman reported the wishes of the GI's on the battle lines. He quotes the GI's as follows, "Wait until we get home," they threaten. "Those politicians sit around and say 'we will not leave Korea.' Why don't they come over here and then say 'We'?"

It is the President, the Senators and the Congressmen the GI's are talking about. Why don't they listen to the voice of the GI?

Rather than heed the people, America's rulers are bickering among themselves over the constitutional rights of the President as against Congress to send more American youth abroad. No doubt the skilled corporation lawyers and constitutional hair-splitters among them will probe all the legal angles of this issue.

But the American people — the mothers and fathers — are not interested in the dead letter of the law; they are interested in the lives of their sons. They want an end to the Korean atrocity; but the President and Congress scorn their pleas. They haggle over sending more troops to court new disasters.

Enemies of the People

There is not one member of Congress who will listen to the people. There is not one elected representative who will act on the basis of the wishes of the majority. A government by such men stands branded as the usurper of power, as the dictatorial enemy of the people.

Representative Edwin Arthur Hall of New York has introduced a bill to permit members of the armed forces, regardless of age, to vote for federal officials. "If a man is old enough to fight, he is old enough to vote," Hall told the House. This is a commendable proposal and we support it. But it is not enough.

LET EVERY MAN AND WOMAN 18 YEARS AND OVER VOTE ON WAR AND PEACE. The people have the right not only to vote for officials, but to vote on the issues of life and death.

A truly democratic solution to the debate in the 82nd Congress would be to make it mandatory for Congress to submit the question of sending troops abroad to a popular referendum.

CONSULT THE PEOPLE! CONSULT THOSE WHO HAVE TO DO THE FIGHTING. THEY ARE THE ONES WHO SUFFER. THEY ARE FORCED TO KILL AND BE KILLED. LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!

GOV'T. SET TO IMPOSE WAGE-PRICE CONTROLS

The resignation of Alan Valentine as Wage-Price Stabilizer and the appointment of Eric Johnston in his place signifies that the administration is about to order wage controls and a price "freeze."

Valentine, a "free enterprise" fanatic who didn't believe in controls was against any price "freeze" at this time. His one action was to impose a voluntary price "control." This made the profiteers happy as they simply kept jacking prices up. Consumers, however, have begun to protest as food and other commodities spiraled upward.

BIG BUSINESS APPOINTEE

Eric Johnston, four times president of the anti-labor U.S. Chamber of Commerce, on leave from his job as movie industry czar, was unanimously approved by the Senate. Thus Truman keeps unbroken his policy of appointing Big Business spokesmen to all key posts in the "emergency" setup.

The ineffectiveness of any price "freeze" is indicated by the report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics that under the emergency legislation 50 percent of the basic cost of living items can't be controlled. Included among these items are such important things as rent and credit.

Furthermore the expected "freeze" will be overall, with separate ceilings to be worked out at a later date. The loopholes in an overall price fix are big enough to drive a ten-ton truck through. According to the press a "rollback" to Jan. 1, 1951 is "under study."

Such a rollback would leave the consumers holding the bag. Wholesale prices have burst through all previous records for the tenth consecutive week now. The proposed rollback would merely put prices where they were after a long steady rise, the last seven weeks of which were record breaking.

DEFERRED PAYMENT

No indication has as yet been given as to the policy on wages and the escalator clause in particular. Some of the rumors from Washington hint that a "deferred wages" device may be introduced. Under such a plan wage increases already guaranteed in union contracts would be paid in non-convertible government bonds. Thus the workers would get the increases won by past negotiations but only after ten or more years.

Among the factors impelling the administration to its sudden action on prices is the tide of

(Continued on page 3)

GIs in Korea Hate The Brave-Talking U.S. Politicians

The American GI's in Korea are bitter against the "politicians" whom they blame for the war. This is revealed in a Jan. 18 dispatch by William Chapman, United Press Staff Writer.

"The politicians are responsible for prolonging the war," Chapman says the GI's are saying.

"Wait until we get home," they threaten. "Those politicians sit around and say, 'We will not leave Korea.' Why don't they come over here and then say 'We'?"

"These men," says Chapman, "have now lost the burning urge to fight. They honiestly doubt that they will gain anything if they took all of Korea."

It is such sentiments as these which have made it necessary for MacArthur to clamp down a rigid censorship on all Korean correspondents. Only occasionally does the truth leak out.

Recently an English newspaper correspondent in Korea was held incommunicado for several hours by the U.S. military because of a dispatch he tried to send telling of some of the grievances of the enlisted men.

The American troops in Korea, 7,000 miles from home, are at the mercy of the West Point Brass who, like the politicians, consider the GI's expendable.

Skoglund Defense Asks Support for Deportation Fight

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 — The Civil Rights Defense Committee this week issued an appeal for a $1,000 fund to help fight the deportation of Carl Skoglund. The Minnesota union leader was found liable for deportation at a U.S. Immigration hearing in New York on Dec. 15.

The Committee pointed out that Skoglund was the second person to be victimized under the recently-enacted McCarran Law which has been widely condemned by labor and civil liberties bodies as unconstitutional and undemocratic. The sole ground of the government's action was his former membership in the Communist Party during the Twenties, although Skoglund was expelled from the CP in 1928 and has long been opposed to all it stands for.

SUPREME COURT TEST

"These new developments in his case raise questions of great constitutional importance," says the Committee, "and give added urgency to our fight to save Skoglund from deportation." The CRDC intends to test the validity and application of the McCarran Act and will take Skoglund's appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, if necessary.

Stanley H. Lowell, former Assistant U.S. District Attorney in New York and member of the Alien Civil Rights Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union, has been retained to represent Skoglund in the administrative and legal hearings.

Contributions for Skoglund's defense should be sent to the Civil Rights Defense Committee, 19 West 10th St., New York 11, N. Y.

Poll Shows Two-thirds Favor Korea Evacuation

The American people are overwhelmingly opposed to the Korean war. That is the finding of a Jan. 23 Gallup poll.

This popular opinion, which runs counter to the plans of Washington and the Pentagon, is reflected in the poll despite the fact that Gallup represents American Big Business and makes every attempt to slant his questions in favor of the capitalist point of view.

WANT TO PULL OUT

The poll reports that 66 percent of the people questioned want to "pull out" of Korea. Only 25 percent want to "stay there." And nine percent did not reply.

In reply as to whether they believed the intervention in Korea had been a mistake in the first place, 49 percent said "yes, we made a mistake."

These views, says the Gallup poll, mark a "sharp reversal of opinion."

The Jan. 19 St. Louis Post Dispatch reports a poll in Rolla, Missouri, on the question, "Do you think we should withdraw from Korea as quickly as possible?" The replies were 157 yes, and 117 no. On the question of drafting 18 year olds, 165 were against and 126 were in favor.

One housewife, questioned in this poll, said, "Let's not prepare hastily for all-out war." A veteran of World War II said, "Get out of Korea? Hell, yes! Let's stop sticking our nose where it doesn't belong."

A local politician in this small town said, "We should quit meddling in other nations' affairs. We should enforce the Monroe Doctrine."

From these and other polls, from the flood of mail pouring into Washington, it is clearer every day that the Korean war is the most unpopular war in U.S. history. The Gallup poll stated, "If American military and diplomatic leaders are convinced we should stay in Korea, they may face a difficult campaign to 'sell' the American public on this plan."

This is an understatement. The truth is that only by imposing a police state, and suppressing the free expression of the American people, will the capitalist government be able to carry out its all-out war plans.

Not only the GI's but the working women and men of America will become enraged at the Washington "politicians" who scornfully disregard the wishes of the people, and look for a new leadership.

Tax-Free Swag for 'High Tax' Truman

Representative Kearney of N. Y. has suggested that Truman, in line with his proposal for heavier taxes, set the example by permitting taxation of his $50,000 annual expense allowance. Truman receives this expense money, for which he does not have to render an accounting, in addition to his annual salary of $100,000.

Congressmen also receive a tax-free expense allowance. The last Congress voted each senator and representative $2,500 for expenses in addition to the annual salary of $12,500.

Chicago SWP Files Petitions for Alderman Election

CHICAGO, Jan. 22 — The Socialist Workers Party today filed more than twice the minimum signatures required to place aldermanic candidate Irving Beinin on the ballot in the Fifth Ward.

All reports from those circulating petitions indicated that there is a great deal of sentiment for an "Anti-War Socialist" candidate. Enthusiastic campaign workers reported that the response of many people was, "We're so glad you're running. It's time somebody did something."

Of particular interest was the response of members and sympathizers of the Progressive Party and the Stalinist Communist Party; many who were approached signed the petitions, and indicated support for the campaign. One Stalinist on signing said, "This is against all my background and upbringing but I think this campaign is necessary."

Two days before the final day for filing, the only opposition to Alderman Merriam, the protege of Senator Paul Douglas and leader of the ADA wing of the Democratic Party, is Irving Beinin, Trotskyist candidate. From all indications Merriam will also receive the support of Republicans.

Thus, while it is too early to be sure, it may very well be that the Democrats, Republicans and Stalinists will all line up against Irving Beinin, the Anti-War Socialist.

WOMEN SIGN PETITIONS

During the door-to-door campaign for signatures the campaign workers ran into a meeting of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. When one worker explained his purpose the chairman invited the campaign committee to send a speaker to the meeting.

The campaign manager, Frank Roberts, spoke and all the women present signed the petition except one. The next day this woman stopped a petition circulator on the street and said, "I was at the meeting last night and was the only one who didn't sign. I have thought it over and think that it is important that a candidate of this kind be on the ballot." She signed and got her neighbor to do likewise.

Atrocity in Korea

The testimony which **The Militant** has compiled from the daily press containing factual reports by scores of eye witnesses (see page 2 of this issue) stands as an indictment of American imperialism's Korean atrocity.

"Kill everything that moves! Destroy all cover! Depopulate all cities, towns and villages! Scorch the earth!" These are the orders of the high command in Korea. On the basis of the evidence we print, we accuse the responsible Washington and Pentagon officials of these crimes:

1. The premeditated wholesale slaughter of millions of defenseless Korean civilians, including women, old men and children. This constitutes the most cold-blooded carnage in modern times.
2. The ravagement of hundreds of Korean cities, towns and villages, systematically laying waste the homes of a whole people.
3. Callous, inhuman disregard for the lives of millions of civilians driven from their homes and left to starve and freeze to death along roads and highways, with no provisions made for their shelter, adequate clothing or food.
4. Ruthless despoliation of the countryside, burning of farmlands, destruction of the sources of food, condemning the Korean people to starvation.

These are the facts about the "liberation" of Korea; these are the crimes committed by those who claim to be fighting for the "freedom loving nations."

GI'S EQUAL VICTIMS

Not only world opinion, but the American GI's who are forced by the Big Brass to carry out the massacre, are sick at heart, as many reports from the battle fronts have shown. Tens of thousands of American youth lie with the Korean dead, victims of the same criminals.

With this crime the American ruling class takes its place at the head of the list of imperialist butchers. Neither the Japanese General Staff nor the Nazi race-exterminators exceeded the sanguinary record already imprinted on the historical record by Wall Street's warlords.

The last of the powerful imperialists, fighting to prolong their outworn social and economic system, show the least concern for human life or the accomplishments of civilization.

The American imperialists have not bothered with death-ovens; they destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki with single atomic blasts, burning hundreds of thousands of innocent human beings in one flaming instant.

WHY THE ATROCITY

The unbridled ferocity of U.S. imperialism in Korea can be explained only by a correct understanding of the nature of the Korean war.

It is not a war of inter-imperialist rivalry. It is not a war between fellow thieves for booty. It is a class war of exploiters against an aroused oppressed people who want freedom, independence and national unification. The financial and social privileges of imperialism are threatened by the insurgent colonial peoples. The butchery and unrestrained violence of the American ruling class against the Korean revolution is the vicious reaction of a decadent system cornered by the forces of progress.

What American imperialists cannot control, they will destroy. As the capitalist system dies, it threatens to reduce civilization to barbarism. What is happening in Korea can happen to the whole world.

The imperialist criminals must be brought before the bar of justice; they must be indicted tried and condemned. In self-defense, the workers at the head of all oppressed humanity must banish the capitalist system which stands in the way of progress and civilization and replace it with socialism.

SPEECH BY V.R. DUNNE FLAYS ASIA WAR POLICY

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 21 — About 50 workers gathered at the headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party in this city to hear V. R. Dunne, SWP trade union secretary, give a Marxist analysis of the crisis in the Far East.

VINCENT R. DUNNE

Korea, while a victim of brutal U.S. imperialism, nevertheless "has confounded the American ruling class with the power of the awakening colonial revolution," Dunne stated.

"But what is the situation?" Dunne asked. "A well-equipped U.S. army of some 200,000 troops invaded Korea 9,000 miles from our own shores and attempted to prevent the Korean workers and peasants from uniting the country under a government of their own choosing."

ASIAN PEOPLE UNCONVINCED

"It is evident that the peoples of Asia are not convinced by Truman's claim that he wants to liberate them," said Dunne. "Where have the brass hats, the capitalist politicians and the corporation heads ever exhibited any democratic tendencies in this or any other country? Washington, D. C., is the worst jim crow town in the country. The American trade unions were organized in spite of the intransigence of the bosses. And these people have not changed."

Dunne then went on to paint the whole black record of American imperialism in the Far East, from Perry's visit to Tokyo in 1853 up to the present. "Battleships in the harbors of Oriental ports have been the regular calling card of U.S. imperialism. Brutality toward the colonial peoples by U.S. occupying forces has always been an integral part of U.S. policy. And the U.S. army of occupation in Korea was no different."

A lively question period followed Dunne's talk and the audience contributed a generous collection. Afterwards there was a social hour over sandwiches, coffee and cake. Another forum is planned for Sunday, Feb. 4, at which time V. R. Dunne will analyze the situation in Europe.

The Great Atrocity -- How They 'Liberate' Korea

Documentary Record of Crimes Against Humanity by Imperialists

(This entire page contains documentary evidence of what Truman's "police action" has perpetrated in Korea against the Korean populace and against those in uniform, Korean and American, who were forced to do the fighting.

Every word is a verbatim quotation from capitalist press sources which support U.S. intervention, including leading newspapers like the N. Y. Times, N. Y. Herald-Tribune and Christian Science Monitor, and magazines like Time, Life, U.S. News and World Report, and Look.

Most of these accounts are by eyewitnesses—war correspondents of newsgathering agencies like the Associated Press (AP), United Press (UP) and newspaper chains like Scripps-Howard. We could have filled all four pages of this paper with similar evidence.

We do not need to write or add a line of our own. The evidence that follows is beyond dispute and overwhelming. Let the record speak!)

The Korean Balance Sheet

Seoul, Dec. 29 — The entire nation — 30 million people — has been uprooted. — Jim Lucas, Scripps-Howard.

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Washington, Sept. 8 (AP) — Korean Ambassador John M. Chang estimated today that at least 10,000,000 refugees in his country would need help to live through the forthcoming winter.

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The Korean defense minister said Dec. 2 he believed nearly 1,000,000 South Korean soldiers, police and civilians had died. Previously, President Syngman Rhee had given a rough estimate of 100,000 military and 200,000 civilian deaths. — N. Y. Post, Dec. 3.

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Tokyo, Jan. 6 (UP) — Literally millions of Koreans are stumbling south with the troops — uprooted, homeless and hungry.

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An estimated 4,000,000 people have lost their homes throughout South Korea. — The Voice of Korea, published by Korean Affairs Institute, Washington, D. C., friendly to South Korea. Issue of Nov. 21, 1950.

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Maj. Gen. Emmett (Rosie) O'Donnell . . . sounded not unlike a West Point B squad coach. . . **"We broke all records,"** he said, **adding: "There is very little standing in North Korea worthy of mention."** — Christian Science Monitor, Jan. 19.

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Washington, Dec. 9 — The number of our casualties and the suffering of our troops is agonizing . . . the toll is appalling. Following are some of the unreported facts: U.S. casualties exceed 50,000 — a figure at least 15,000 more than officially announced by the Pentagon. — Robert S. Allen, N. Y. Post, Dec. 9.

Wandering to -- Death

Tokyo, Jan. 12 (AP) . . . Some 2,000,000 of these homeless civilians are on the move. **AP correspondent John Randolph, travelling with the 8th Army, said he saw distraught Korean mothers hurling their children into rivers to drown, rather than let them freeze or starve to death.**

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By the roadside a mile from Seoul, lay the frozen body of a barefooted little boy, face down in a tangled knot of telephone wire. Past his stiff, straight body moved a torrent of refugees. . . Few glanced at the dead child; the sight was too common. . . Retreating U.N. troops stopped frequently to rescue crying babies strapped to the backs of mothers who had fallen dead. . . — Time Magazine, Jan. 15.

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Yongdongpo, Korea, Jan. 2 (AP) . . . Suddenly the old lady began to cackle in a senile way. She halted a passing young boy and handed down to him the infant — her grandson. Then she climbed to the ground and started walking along the side of the train. The boy put the baby down beside the tracks and ran after the old lady... The baby, his red little face splotched with dirt and tears, sat alone on the damp black cinder path near the track. He cried in loneliness. Grown refugees; their backs burdened with bundles, stepped out of the path to avoid crushing the baby. But none came over to pick him up. — Hal Boyle, AP correspondent.

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Said Eighth Army Commander Matthew B. Ridgway, of the refugees' plight: "Perhaps the greatest tragedy to which Asia has ever been subjected in the course of its long history. . . Everything else is dwarfed by the pathos of this tragedy, and our American people haven't the faintest concept of it. . ." — Time magazine, Jan. 15.

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Tokyo, Dec. 26 (ONA) . . . Two American officers and I stood on the highway outside Pyongyang. . . Hundreds of refugees walked slowly southward. . . "Look at them run from the Commies," the younger officer said. "We showed them what freedom was, and now they are going south because they don't want to live under the Reds." That was a narrow interpretation of this mass migration. The other officer and I had spent several days together in Pyongyang . . . the South Koreans had regarded North Korea as a conquered land, to be looted. South Korean officers had confiscated rice in Pyongyang . . . sent it back to Seoul . . . the black market netted them fabulous profits. . . **The looting, killing and arson in Pyongyang was on such a scale that many Americans were convinced the South Koreans had embarked on a deliberate campaign to discredit both the U.N. and the Eighth Army's Civil Affairs teams.** — CBS correspondent Robert P. Martin.

Driven from Their Homes

With American Forces in Korea, July 9. . . Today, as a precaution, all Korean civilians in the front-line area were ordered removed to southern provinces in Korea. They were allowed until 6 o'clock this evening to leave . . . will mean removal of about 50,000 civilians . . . many of the peasants who wave their hands to the Americans along the road change at night into guerrillas. — Marguerite Higgins, N. Y. Herald Tribune.

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On the Korean Front, Aug. 18 (AP) — The U.S. Army today was moving the entire civilian population back from the southwest front. Ten thousand men, women and children, the black soil of their rice fields still clinging to them, milled around a railroad evacuation point in silent bewilderment. **Lieut. Col. Harold G. Doty had moved 26,000 by yesterday. Another 10,000 crammed into the old railway cars today. Tonight, still another 10,000 sit waiting silently. . . North Koreans were infiltrating the lines in peasant dress.**

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Taegu, Jan. 9 (AP) — All Korean refugees except families of soldiers, police and government officials today were ordered to move out of southeast Korea. . . 500,000 or more eventually will be taken off to an island.

"How Much More 'Liberation'...?"

TOKYO, Jan. 8 — How much more "liberation" can the people of Korea stand? . . . The Korean equivalent of John Q. Public is taking a terrific beating because of the war. His home has been destroyed. His job has disappeared because factories were destroyed. He and his family have become ragged, cold, hungry, wanderers. It is a hard fact but true fact that MOST OF THE DESTRUCTION WAS DONE BY THE AMERICANS. . . The Communists can assert that they have not wrecked Korea. Retreating or advancing, UN forces have found it necessary to bomb and shell and burn many of North Korea's towns and practically all of her industry. THE CHINESE HAVE AVOIDED DESTRUCTIVE ASSAULTS on cities and towns. . . If UN forces drive north again they will not find it easy to convince the Koreans, especially the North Koreans, that they come as friends. . . — Charles Moore, UP Staff Writer.

This tiny Korean girl, one of millions fleeing U.S. "scorched-earth" policy, lends her meager strength to help move a wagon loaded with household goods.

"...Savagery in Detail"

. . . Asia cannot be won — not really won — by military means alone. To attempt to win it so, as we are now doing in Korea, is not only to court final failure but also to force upon our men in the field acts and attitudes of the utmost savagery. This means not the usual, inevitable savagery of combat in the field but savagery in detail — the blotting out of villages where the enemy MAY be hiding; the shooting and shelling of refugees who MAY include North Koreans in the anonymous white clothing of the Korean countryside, or who MAY be screening an enemy march upon our positions, or who MAY be carrying broken-down rifles or ammunition clips or walkie-talkies parts in their packs and under their trousers or skirts. — John Osborne, Senior Far East Correspondent, Life Magazine, Aug. 21, 1950.

Liberation -- by Arson

With United States Troops In Korea, July 31 (UP) — American security patrols **started burning deserted villages** behind the First Cavalry Division lines today in a SCORCHED EARTH policy. . . Native houses were put to the torch . . . from Hwangan to Kumchon. Homes . . . were ordered evacuated. . .

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With U.S. Forces Approaching Pyongyang, Oct. 18 — North Korean civilians . . . are trying to curry favor with our GIs by giving them fruit, chickens and flowers. The soldiers are leery . . . and are **burning all the towns.** . . — Frank Holeman, N. Y. Daily News, Oct. 20.

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Imjin River Front, Jan. 1 (UP). . . **The 8th Army SCORCHED THE EARTH behind it. . . The schoolhouses, barns and huts with thatched roofs that the soldiers had occupied since early December went up in smoke.**

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Tokyo, Jan. 2 . . . Front line reports said United Nations troops had put a SCORCHED EARTH policy in effect as they fell back. All buildings in which the enemy might attempt to hide from Allied air attacks were **ordered burned. . . new** columns of refugees . . . were plodding down all roads southward. — Lindesay Parrot, N. Y. Times.

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On the East Central Front, Korea, Jan. 19 (UP) — South Korean civilians raised a tempest of protest today against the American SCORCHED-EARTH policy. . . The homeless civilians told civil affairs officers attached to each American division that . . . they are amazed that the **Americans are burning their homes.** The Army is sympathetic but **field commanders . . . have given UN troops orders to destroy anything** that could be used as cover by the infiltrators. . . GIs sincerely regret the **ruthless** but necessary **destruction.** They watch in pity as long columns of refugees trudge ever southward . . . not even allowed to stop in UN defense areas, another **brutal . . .** measure.

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For days, the United States Eighth Army (at Pyongyang) destroyed anything which would have helped the enemy. . . In the fight against the soldiers of world revolution, all usual conceptions must be abandoned. . . The West put German Army leaders on trial after the last war because they had had to conduct the war in the East according to "scorched earth" methods. They were held responsible and convicted, for destruction similar to that now being carried out by UN troops. — Editorial in Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, a leading West German newspaper.

"Aerial Scorched-Earth"

. . . The air force has been mounting a steady series of heavy strikes . . . an AERIAL SCORCHED-EARTH operation. And it has **left the Korean countryside a mass of rubble and ruins.** . . — Gordon Walker, Christian Science Monitor, Jan. 20.

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In Korea, Sept. 19 (UP) . . . Behind the enemy lines, I saw at least **15 burning villages. . . Scores of villages** from the air resemble honeycombs, **completely burned out.** The city of Pohang is just one big such honeycomb. — Hugh Baillie, President of the United Press.

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Over North Korea With The Air Force, Dec. 30 (UP) . . . One thing we can swear to — **most of North Korea is in flames. . . Village after village and city after city are burning.** . . The entire area of what was once the city of Wonsan — with 250,000 people — seemed to be on fire. . . All in all, a very successful evening. — Jim Lucas, Scripps-Howard Staff Writer.

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Finally, in blind desperation, we tried to burn with Napalm every town and village . . . along the mockingly empty roads coming down from Manchuria. — Homer Bigart, Pulitzer Prize-Winning Reporter of N. Y. Herald Tribune, in Look magazine, Jan. 30.

. . . constantly growing report of mass murders and other atrocities by the North Korean Communists . . . parallel between this sort of thinking and that of the Nazi malefactors is close . . . **idea of mass reprisal must be as repugnant to us as the crimes that have made it a danger. . .** N. Y. Times editorial, Oct. 9.

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With the U.S. Second Division in North Korea, Nov. 9 — In reprisal for the deaths of five GIs whose advance patrol had been ambushed, U.S. tanks, planes and artillery today obliterated the village of Tuom-ni. The command was to level the village and leave no trace. . . — N. Harry Smith, N. Y. Daily Compass.

"The People Died or Fled"

North Korea, Nov. 9 (AP) . . . **Ever see a city die?** . . . That was the way it was at Sinuiju. Yesterday it was a city of 100,000. . . It was **noon** when the growling rumble of the approaching U.S. Superforts gave the **first warning of doom.** By **12:30 p.m. 90 per cent . . . lay in ruins. . .** Flight by flight the bombers let go. Step by step the city below was destroyed. The clay walls fell apart in the heat. The straw roofs burned, the wood flamed. **And the people died or fled.** — Hal Boyle, AP correspondent.

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Tokyo, Aug. 8 . . . United Nations bombings of Seoul have killed 3,000 persons. . . — Richard J. H. Johnston, N. Y. Times.

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Rome, Sept. 5 (AP) — Fides, a Roman Catholic news agency, reported today that U.S. planes had destroyed the Cathedral of Seoul. . . Fides said it was feared that some nuns were killed. . . Fides said the cathedral was one of many Roman Catholic churches that have been destroyed during the war.

* * *

Tokyo, Sept. 26 (AP) — Gen. MacArthur announced here at 2:10 P.M. today that United Nations forces had . . . liberated it (Seoul) **"in such a manner as to cause the least possible damage to civil installations."**

* * *

Seoul, Sept. 26 (AP) — This is a **flaming, smoke-filled city of horror** today. . . **Seoul is not being spared.** . . Not in two wars have I seen anything to equal the battle for Seoul. . . **Seoul is being scarred and battered terribly.** . . — Don Whitehead, AP correspondent.

* * *

With the 1st Marine Division at Seoul, Sept. 27. . . American artillery and flame-throwing tanks . . . burn down many acres of the city . . . **the greatest damage was to flimsy Korean homes . . . we saw from close up a smoking hillside where thousands of buildings were gutted and charred ruins.** — Marguerite Higgins, N. Y. Herald-Tribune.

* * *

With the U.S. Marines in Downtown Seoul, Sept. 26. . . **Korean civilians, especially children,** would not take cover properly and **thousands have been carried by all sorts of improvised litters to the aid stations.** — Marguerite Higgins, N. Y. Herald-Tribune.

* * *

Seoul, Sept. 30 (UP) — **Army and Marine Commanders . . contended today it could have been taken without the heavy loss in lives and property.** Destruction . . . was attributed by the officers to demands that Seoul be taken "as soon as possible.". . . ". . . We had to take it at 'all costs,'" a lieutenant colonel said. "A **triumphal entry into the city was needed. . .**"

* * *

Tokyo, Jan. 4 (AP) . . . At sunset Thursday, one weary retreating GI looked back at the burning city and said: "Now I know how Nero felt."

"...Savagery By Proxy"

And there is savagery by proxy, the savagery of the South Korean police and (in some sectors) South Korean marines upon whom we rely for contact with the population and for ferreting out hidden enemies. . . The South Korean police and the South Korean marines whom I observed in front line areas are brutal. They murder to save themselves the trouble of escorting prisoners to the rear; THEY MURDER CIVILIANS simply to get them out of the way or to avoid the trouble of searching and cross-examining them. And they extort information — information our forces need and require of the South Korean interrogators—by means so brutal that they cannot be described. Too often THEY MURDER PRISONERS OF WAR and civilians before they have had a chance to give any information they may have. . . The American record need not have been blotted by OUR RELIANCE ON, OR PASSIVE ACQUIESCENCE IN, THE MURDEROUS HABITS AND METHODS of our South Korean helpers. — John Osborne, Senior Far East Correspondent, Life Magazine, Aug. 21, 1950.

"We Can Wreck a Country"

If . . . the Air Force demolishes the roads, bridges, public utilities and factories of all Korea, the 'victory' when it comes will indeed be Pyrrhic. . . **We shall not have proved that we can contain aggression but only that we can wreck a country.** — Walter Lippmann, N. Y. Herald-Tribune, Aug. 17.

* * *

A U.S. Air Force Base in Japan, Sept. 23 . . . **"Our mission here (Korea) is to flatten industry, and we've made a good inroad on it,"** says Maj. Gen. Emmett O'Donnell. . . — Richard C. Ferguson, NEA.

* * *

Strategic bombing. . . is a two-edged sword. **Inevitably, we kill and maim civilians, including women and children, for civilians live near freight yards and industrial areas.** We are indignant . . . about North Korean atrocities against our prisoners. **Yet as North Koreans, would we not be equally indignant against Americans if our women and children were slain by American bombs?** . . . Bombs are a bad way to win friends and influence people. — Hanson W. Baldwin, N. Y. Times, Aug. 21.

* * *

Lake Success, Sept. 12 (UP) . . . UN observers believed the North Koreans hoped to make local propaganda capital of it (U.S. strategic bombings), since factories and industrial establishments are revered by the poverty-stricken Korean peasants as something to ease their burdensome economic load.

"Kill Everything that Moves"

Maj. Gen. Robert B. McClure of the 2nd Division ordered his men in the Wonju area to "kill everything that moves." — The Voice of Korea, Jan. 19.

* * *

Tokyo, Jan. 10 (AP) . . . A command from the 5th Air Force to blast all "male persons" behind enemy lines . . . henceforth only women and children will be spared by pilots from strafing attacks.

* * *

On the Western Front, Korea, Jan. 16 — She was feeding her baby when death struck from the sky. The handsome young Korean woman lay sprawled beside the road leading into Osan. One breast was bared to the winter wind and her arms were frozen in the position she last held her baby. Next to her in a snow bank was the baby, swaddled in rags, its frozen face peering out. The mother and child were only two of the many refugees killed along the road leading into battered Osan which American forces captured Monday. . .

Blankets and children's clothes, bits of clothing and small tots' articles were strewn along the road in confusion. At one place was a tiny red baby cap — with something in it — in the mud. . . This stretch of road was strafed several days ago on a report . . . that Chinese Communist soldiers were shedding their uniforms and mingling with columns of refugees. I didn't see any dead soldiers yesterday. . . This is just one spot on one road in Korea. — Gene Symonds, UP Correspondent.

* * *

The U.N. convention against genocide — "acts committed with intent to destroy in whole or in part a national, ethnical, racial or religious group" — became international law yesterday. Former Assistant Secretary of State Adoph Berle and Dr. Raphael Lemkin, who played the foremost role in drafting the convention . . . held genocide would not apply to such military orders as that of the U.N. Command in Korea directing its planes to shoot all Korean males, in or out of uniform, who are north of U.N. lines . . . the "intent" would not be to exterminate a national group. . . — N. Y. Daily Compass, Jan. 14.

"...Cruelest of All Wars"

The war in Korea is the cruelest of all wars. NEVER BEFORE HAS AN ENTIRE NATION BEEN BOMBARDED, STRAFED AND BURNED SO THOROUGHLY IN SUCH A SHORT SPACE OF TIME. Practically everything is a military objective. Lonely farmhouses are being destroyed, lest they give the enemy comfort and concealment. Millions of Koreans — men, women and children — are refugees, harassed, cold and hungry. Many die, others are killed as they flee. . . Family life — in fact, the entire social order — is being shattered. — The Voice of Korea, Jan. 19, 1951.

Liberation -- by Firing Squad

Since the liberation of Seoul last September, **South Korean firing squads have been busy** liquidating "enemies of the state". . . With savage indifference, **the military executioners shot men, women and children . . .** while U.S. and British troops voiced their loathing of the wholesale slaughter, three American clergymen . . . made a formal protest . . . they charged that many of the victims had no trials. . . Civilians sentenced to death are supposed to be hanged, added Ho (Major General Lee Ho, Vice Chief of South Korea's Martial Law Headquarters), "but **we have found shooting by firing squad more convenient.**" — Time magazine, Dec. 25.

* * *

Seoul, Dec. 16 (UP) — The women and the children were screaming. The men were wailing. But the South Korean guards shot them all. One of the guards went around with a machine-gun afterward, firing bursts into those who didn't die immediately. . . I saw two women and two youngsters, aged about 8 and 13, among them. . . — British Fusilier Wm. Hilder to United Press.

* * *

British Brigade Hdqtrs., Korea, Dec. 18 (UP) — A heavily-armed British infantry company took up positions around bloody Execution Hill today to prevent South Koreans from shooting any more of their prisoners. Men and women . . . have been executed on the hill on the outskirts of Seoul in such a cold-blooded fashion that it was revolting to British and American troops. . . A South Korean apologized. **The prisons were so crowded with Communists sentenced to death that Execution Hill was the only solution. "There are so many to execute," he said.**

"Next of Kin Notified"

Washington, Jan. 18 (UP) — The Defense Department today reported 45,137 American casualties in Korea through last Friday (Jan. 12) midnight . . . **today's figure does not actually represent all casualties.** . . The time lapse is usually one to three weeks.

* * *

General MacArthur's headquarters reported that 11,964 U.S. troops were killed, wounded or missing in 19 days of fighting immediately before or after the Chinese Communists launched their crushing attack on Nov. 27. **The total did not include 22,000 more men listed as non-battle casualties, most of them the victims of frostbite or frozen feet.** — Time, Jan. 1.

* * *

Battle Creek, Mich., Jan. 12 (AP). . . Pvt. Hubert Reeves underwent a "very successful" amputation of both feet today. Doctors at Percy Jones Hospital said the condition of the FROST-BITTEN Korean veteran was "excellent" . . . they will remove all the blackened fingers on his left hand and up to the second or middle knuckle of his right hand. . .

* * *

Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 26 (AP) . . . It fell to me as a reporter to tell Mrs. Clara Smith, of Middleburg, how badly disabled was her son, Robert, 20. . . When I finally reached Mrs. Smith I hedged, hesitated, felt a bit ill. I kept hoping she might say she already knew of her son's condition, **that Robert was the first quadruple amputee of the Korean war.** But no. . . Then I . . . told her. She fainted. I nearly did. . . I remember the mother crying: "It can't be, it can't be — he's too young!". . . — Bill Loftus, AP correspondent.

* * *

Travis Air Base, Calif., Dec. 26 (AP) — "Smith's morale and condition are excellent," said Col. A. H. Corliss, commanding officer of this base hospital today. . . Smith lost both hands above the wrists and both legs below the knees. FROSTBITES necessitated the amputations.

* * *

One flight after another was full of frostbite patients. It's not funny. Their hands and feet are all black. And it's such close fighting they get a lot of steel and lead in their stomachs. . . **They all hate Korea. They're glad to get out even with lead tearing inside them. I never heard any of them say they'd like to get back.** . . — Lt. Charlotte Cooley, as told to Sidney Field, N. Y. Daily Mirror, Jan. 23, 1951.

Even with pretty U.S. Army nurses to cheer him up, it's still not much fun for triple-amputee Cpl. Angel Gomez, of the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico. Loss of legs above the knee may prevent him from using artificial limbs. He was wounded in Korea.

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TROTSKY

Labor's Need: Think Socially

"What the American worker misses is a spirit of generalization, or analysis, of his class position in society as a whole. This lack of social thinking has its origin in the country's whole history — the Far West with the perspective of unlimited possibilities for everyone to become rich, etc. Now all that is gone, but the mind remains in the past. Idealists think the human mentality is progressive, but in reality it is the most conservative element of society. Your technique is progressive but the mentality of the worker lags far behind. Their backwardness consists of inability to generalize their problems; they consider everything on a personal basis. Now, the war will teach American workers social thinking."

Leon Trotsky, Some Questions on American Problems. 1940

LENIN

Debater They All Fear

When thieves fall out, the saying goes, honest men get a chance.

The imperialist thieves who rule this country are fighting among themselves on how, when and where to rob the working people of the world. It's a good thing to know why these thieves have fallen out so that honest women and men can take full advantage of their chance.

The capitalists are in trouble. The imperialist-thievery business has not prospered since around last June. This grieves those in this line of business: the group of about Sixty Billionaire Families and several hundred other families around them. Their lack of success not only grieves them, it gets them into a big fight among themselves.

Should they pull out of Korea? Should they send troops into Europe in greater numbers? Should they try to make a deal with Mao Tse-tung? Or with Stalin? Or should they continue feeding the young men of this country into the revolutionary buzz-saw of Asia?

These are critical questions for the imperialist thieves. And anyone can see that it will take more than a "Great Debate" to settle such problems and still stay in the thievery business.

Another reason for this noisy quarrel is that they're getting worried about how the workers of this country are beginning to look at things. Because people are beginning not only to think, they are also talking — that is, doing their thinking out loud. Past experience shows that once people really start thinking politically, it is only a step to their talking, and next — to acting!

All imperialist participants in this "Great Debate" are worried about the appearance of another debater — one whom they all fear. This debater usually stays in the background and permits specialists in the thieving business, self-styled statesmen, handpicked ambassadors, learned jurists and corporation executives, to make the speeches. This debater who now begins to take the stage is the people.

When the capitalist thieves make life unbearable, when they show their confusion and lack of program, then the people push forward and take over the discussion of the life-and-death issues. This debater — the honest men and women looking for a way out — is mortally feared by the imperialists.

The collective voice of this new debater will drown out the shams and lies of the spokesmen for the economic royalists. Theirs is the voice of the millions.

Eisenhower's Bill of Goods

On his European junket, which started with public fanfares and ended in secret whisperings with German militarists, Dwight D. Eisenhower visited nine Atlantic Pact countries and Germany. When the Prince of Wales used to undertake trips as chief salesman for the British Empire, he at least covered more territory and with bigger success.

Eisenhower, who has assumed the duties of traveling salesman for American imperialism, went to Europe, as the United Press puts it, "in search of men and arms." So far as this side of his tour is concerned, Eisenhower comes back with promises, that is, empty-handed. But this was anticipated by himself and the organizers of the whole sordid affair.

It is sordid. Because the real job of this militarist, who poses in addition as "educator," is to sell the program of "men and arms" not to the European peoples but right here at home. Not that he, together with the rest of the Pentagon set, has dropped the plan to militarize Europe. On the contrary. But just now that is secondary. It is subordinate to the most urgent of tasks, namely: militarizing the U.S. "We" must arm to "help" Europe re-arm. That is the public message Eisenhower brings "back from Europe."

This General of the Army has shown how able he is to play the hypocrite when he came forth in 1948 as a Knight in Shining Armor. In his book **Crusade in Europe,** he accused the whole German people as the guilty — guilty of "a completely evil conspiracy with which no compromise could be tolerated." He, Eisenhower, could not possibly bring himself even to shake hands with a German, he said. Listen:

" . . .the war became for me a crusade in the traditional sense of that often misused word. . . . I was interested only in those (Germans) who were not yet captured. None would be allowed to call on me. I pursued the same practice to the end of the war. Not until Field Marshal Jodl signed the surrender terms at Reims in 1945 did I ever speak to a German general, and even then my only words were that he would be held personally and completely responsible for the carrying out of the surrender terms."

And overnight this same Eisenhower has made a complete about-face. Germans, especially German generals? Why for them, he now has a ready smile, a hand of welcome extended, and from his mouth a message: "Let bygones be bygones."

Only the bitterest foe of the American people would advise them to trust such a hypocrite.

German Labor Speaks Again

Socialism speaks with a new voice today in Germany. It is the voice of the great German working class. After long years of regimentation and enslavement, after years of terrible suffering and exhaustion, the German workers are rising again to an erect posture, resuming once more the fight for socialist emancipation.

Since 1933 when they were delivered bound hand and foot to Hitler by treacherous Stalinism and the cowardly Social Democrats, the German workers have been under the iron heel first of the Nazis and then of the "Allied" occupiers.

But today, the German working class shows, that despite everything, it remains a vital, resolute, unconquerable force. In these workers is the power which produced the great galaxy of leaders: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels along with Ferdinand Lassalle, the older Liebknecht and then August Bebel, Karl Liebknecht and flaming Rosa Luxembourg.

It is the power which imperialist reaction believed was crushed, but on which the revolutionary socialists all over the world continued to pin so many hopes.

The enemies of the German workers are now receiving the first installment of this great power's answer. The steel and mine workers are struggling for an equal say in management — on road to workers' control of industry in the Ruhr. The German capitalists and the U.S. occupation generals shake in their boots.

Side by side with this upsurge of militant independent unionism there is the formation of the Committee for the Launching of the Independent Workers Party of Germany. Elsewhere on this page we reprint the timely and correct fighting program of this all-important political tendency.

It points the way for workers and peoples in other capitalist countries as well. It gives the lie-direct to those pessimists and faint-hearts who deserted the socialist cause on the pretext that Europe's working class had been "destroyed."

The German workers, very much alive, rising amid their country's wreckage, speak in a loud, clear voice, challenging their own capitalists as well as the forces of imperialism. It is such workers, armed with a genuine socialist party and program, who will lead Europe out of its present crisis and degradation.

We hail the "Program of Action" of the Committee for the Launching of an Independent Workers Party of Germany. American workers will learn from such movements and such programs. They are our class brothers!

Asians Lead Resistance In UN to U.S. Demands

(Continued from Page 1)

mediate threat of full-scale war with China.

Warren R. Austin, bellicose head of the U.S. delegation in the UN, could scarcely conceal his rage at the "effrontery" of the representatives of the semi-colonial Asian nations in boldly challenging mighty and rich American imperialism. In the debate on the 48-hour adjournment, Austin fumed "**we would like to get the floor and would not like to be forced off the floor by a gentleman who seems to think he has the right to assume the floor and talk many, many times.**" This was a reference to Mahmoud Fauwzi Bey of Egypt who led the floor fight in the Political and Security Committee of the UN General Assembly for the adjournment motion, which was adopted 27 to 23, with six abstentions.

These bourgeois representatives of the Asian and other semi-colonial countries may wish to keep in the good graces of the American capitalist government, but they fear its "liberating" mission in the Far East and what war will mean to them. And they fear above all the tremendous opposition of the masses to any move that will give the Western imperialists a chance to get a bigger foothold in Asia.

NEHRU BLASTS WAR MAKERS

With the set-back given to the arrogant and war-like demands of Washington in the UN, Prime Minister Nehru of India has taken on a bolder tone. At his capital in New Delhi on Jan. 24, Nehru leveled sharp criticism at the U.S. scheme to name China an "aggressor." This, he charged, "can only lead to the intensification of conflicts" and "close the door" to negotiation of a peace.

He further scored the action of the U.S. in opposing the seating of the Peiping government in the UN and the "crossing of the 38th Parallel in Korea" by MacArthur as directly responsible for the aggravation of the war situation. In this connection, as Walter Lippman of the **N. Y. Herald-Tribune** points out, the U.S. has stood alone in its support of Chiang Kai-shek and its actions on Formosa, which "have never been submitted to, much less approved by, the United Nations."

As an echo to Nehru, Prime Minister Attlee of Britain has issued a statement likewise rejecting the adamant opposition of the U.S. to dealing with the revolutionary government of China. The feeling in Asia, he admitted, is to give the "new emerging China" the "opportunity to play her part in a community of nations on equal terms."

Gov't Prepares Wage Controls, Price "Freeze"

(Continued from Page 1)

letters and complaints reaching the White House from housewives and consumers. These cite the runaway inflation in terms of prices in grocery stores and meat markets. The Associated Press reports that Price Stabilization Director DiSalle believes that unless food prices are controlled they will shoot up eight or ten percent by the end of February. This would mean a three to four percent increase in the cost of living which is already at its highest point in U.S. history.

MINERS WIN BIG WAGE HIKE

While the rest of the labor leaders stood idly by, John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers, by pursuing a militant, independent policy, drove through to a resounding victory in negotiations with the soft coal industry.

The miners won a 20-cent an hour general wage increase — a greater pay hike than was achieved by any other union in the last round.

This new agreement came after Lewis had publicly announced he would not stand for a wage-freeze, and would not even consider a no-strike pledge in exchange for a fraudulent equality of sacrifice program.

The rest of the labor leadership has been meeting secretly with top government and corporation officials, preparing to commit the unions, without consultation of the ranks, to the coming wage-control set-up.

Thus the coal miners are once again showing the way to the rest of organized labor, by maintaining complete independence from government controls.

MORE BIG BUSINESS MEN APPOINTED

New appointments and shifts in the "emergency" setup include:

Richard L. Bowditch, on leave from his job as president of a Boston coal company; he will be price director for transportation, public utilities, fuel, service, imports and exports.

Joseph N. Kallick, merchandise manager of a Chicago mail order company; he will be price director of the consumers' soft goods division.

Edward F. Phelps, Jr., formerly with the war-time OPA, an executive vice-president and director of a Ft. Worth food manufacturing and wholesaling corporation; he has been moved up to the post of assistant price stabilizer.

William H. Harrison, former president of International Telephone and Telegraph Co., a world-wide monopoly, has been moved up in the "emergency" setup; he now holds the post of Defense Production Administrator, a new top-level post created for him by C. E. Wilson, former head of General Electric.

JAIL LEAFLET-PASSERS IN RAID ON NEWARK CP

The headquarters of the Communist Party of Newark was raided on Jan. 18. Pamphlets and leaflets were seized and three people were arrested. They are being held on $1,000 bail each for Grand Jury action, charged with printing and distributing subversive literature.

The Magistrate of the Precinct Court which remanded the case to the Jury stated that the defendants "probably" violated the 1918 Statute barring printing and distribution of subversive literature. He further stated that the Communist Party had "probably" violated this statute too.

This raid was the culmination of a series of arrests, beginning with that of the Secretary of the N. J. Communist Party for distributing a leaflet at the Singer Manufacturing Plant in Elizabeth, N. J. on Dec. 7. The leaflet called for the withrawal of outside troops from Korea. His bail was set at $30,000.

The Civil Rights Congress protested the huge bail. In a leaflet, which 10 of their members distributed at the Singer Plant, they reprinted the leaflet on Korea and stated they could find nothing in it which violated the Constitution, as charged in the state anti-subversive statute. These ten were also arrested on three charges of violating this World War I "gag" act and a fourth charge of littering the streets. Following this arrest the $30,000 bail on the Secretary was reduced to $1500.

There is no doubt that this is an attempt to outlaw the Communist Party of Newark. The motion of the defense attorney for those arrested in the raid of Jan. 18, for dismissal of case on grounds of violation of constitutional provisions of freedom of speech and press, was denied.

That these civil rights do not concern the court at all was evident from the remarks of their counsel who commented that the pamphlets seized in the raid "were skillfully drawn in an attempt to keep within the law. It is up to the jury to decide what was intended by the people who distributed the pamphlets."

"Epic of Korea"

The Epic of Korea, by A. Wigfall Green; Public Affairs Press, Washington, D. C. 1950. 136 pp. $2.50.

"No American was glad to be in Korea. . . These then were the great liberators. . . Some were stupid and lazy; others were nervous and eager to do a good job. Some were boys, heartsick for home; others were high-ranking officers glad to continue to hold their higher grades. (So many silver-star uniforms swarmed that Korea became popularly known as "generals' graveyard.") All America was represented: the gangster in uniform; the ranting Herod; the Saul, who had been a cowboy and a general and now would be king. . ."

This is how A. W. Green, an eyewitness, characterizes the personnel of American occupation of Korea during 1945-49. Green served as Judge Advocate, President of the Board of Review for the trial of Koreans, and Director of the Officer Candidate School of the Korean Army. He knows whereof he speaks.

His summation of the whole occupation record is no less candid. The Big Brass, deputized by MacArthur, simply carried on from where the Japanese overlords had left off. They continued the "national government setup created by the Japanese," retaining intact the Japanese police, the judiciary and the economic structure. They also added.

Jim crow was extended even to Korean officer candidates who "were not permitted to eat with American officers and men.' "The arrogance of the police, engendered by the Japanese, continued. Entrapment was declared legal, although it is illegal in the United States, and the use of violence to extort confessions, or supposed confessions, was not uncommon."

Workers' wages were driven to starvation levels. Thus, the daily wage of "an apprentice laborer" was fixed at "from one to two yen (the yen was worth six and two-thirds cents)." The oppression of the peasants became so harsh that crops in this rich agricultural area, declined disastrously. Inflation, fed by speculation and corruption, raged.

Starvation resulted. "Rice disappeared from the normal market and prices on the black market became so fabulous that even the middle class could not buy it." Koreans who had formerly looked with favor on the American Military Government became disaffected or antagonistic. So widespread became the discontent and hatred that Koreans "began to hurl the epithet 'pro-Japanese' at their fellow Koreans who worked with the Americans." "Many Koreans feel that they are worse off than they were under the Japanese," admitted Assistant Secretary of State John H. Hildring on March 10, 1947.

And Judge Advocate Green bears this out to the hilt. He lists **eight** main causes for the "failure" in Korea (pages 94-105). These are an involuntary indictment of the abominations perpetrated in Korea in the name of "democracy" many years before the civil war erupted there.

Green's "causes" range from the "temperament of the American" which renders him an "inefficient military occupant," through the application of "undemocratic methods" and inability to "administer justice," right up to "poorly providing (the Korean people) with clothing, fuel and food."

"But the greatest cause of failure of the American occupation of Korea may be attributed to the inaction of the American authorities in distributing land and homes and other real property to the Koreans," says Green.

Small wonder that demonstrations and uprisings flared in the very course of American occupation. Green does not deal with Rhee's "free Korea" in his book. But he does admit that "Dr. Rhee and Kim Koo were even more conservative than the American forces. . ." The remarkable thing is that the civil war was delayed as long as it actually was in this dismembered, tortured land.

Workers should read this book for the information it contains, which throws some new light on the preliminaries to the Imperialist Atrocity in Korea.

Reviewed by John G. Wright.

Evicted During Childbirth

Mrs. Angelie Petus, a young Negro mother, was evicted from a Brooklyn housing project while in labor; later in the day she gave birth to her third child. City housing authorities had Mrs. Petus evicted from her $34 a month flat because she had fallen behind in her rent. Mrs. Petus is on relief and separated from her husband. The relief authorities gave her no money for pre-natal care and she was forced to spend the rent money for doctor's bills as her pregnancy advanced.

The city marshal in charge of the eviction was deaf to the tearful pleas of Mrs. Petus and her two children after a city hospital interne stated his opinion that the child was not due for a month. Mrs. Petus' brother offered to put his wages in hock with a loan company to avoid the eviction. This offer, too, fell on deaf ears.

GERMAN MARXISTS ISSUE ACTION PROGRAM

Platform of the German Marxists

On July 23, 1950, a Provisional Committee for the launching of the Independent Workers Party of Germany was elected at a conference of militant socialist workers, independent of the Stalinists and the Social Democrats. This marked the first sign of a new upsurge of the German working class revolutionary movement. This Provisional Committee has published the following excellent program in the Dec. 30 issue of its weekly paper, Freie Tribune:

1. — The most important issue in Germany at present is that of remilitarization. We reject in principle the proposed remilitarization and place no confidence whatever in the harmless "defensive" character of a new Wehrmacht. Rearmament spells a progressive lowering of the standard of living, a restriction of the democratic rights of the German people. Its inevitable consequence can only be war.

In order to defend the working people against the plans of the militarists and the munitions magnates we call for a referendum against rearmament. To the war cries we oppose a constructive program of social demands.

2. — The unions are the mass organizations of the working class. The unity of the unions is vital for their striking power; therefore we are against splitting the unions on political or religious grounds. We stand for the principle of industrial unionism, and fight for turning the unions into genuine working class organizations. Consequently, we are against any collaboration with organs of the corporations.

We combat the dictatorial practices of the union bureaucrats and ask for control of the unions' machine and policy by the members themselves. Union officers should not receive salaries higher than the highest wage in the category of workers they represent; and it is inadmissible for one officer to hold several paid jobs. These principles hold for the construction of our own Independent Workers Party, too.

WORKERS CONTROL OF INDUSTRY

3. — The unions' demand for an equal voice in the management is recognized as the central slogan by the immense majority of our working class. Therefore we struggle for this demand unconditionally. The struggle for sharing in management is bound to enrich the German working class with those experiences which enable it to win its democratic rights in the plants and in the economic field. This necessitates an extension of the factory committees' rights as democratically elected organs of the working class.

4. — The capitalists seek to divert the workers from the struggle for higher wages by claiming that higher wages inevitably bring higher prices. But we know that higher wages are possible by cutting down the huge capitalist profits. The employers can and must be prevented from indemnifying themselves for wage raises by higher prices. We demand contracts which tie up wages with living costs. ("Escalator wages," "sliding scale of wages.")

THE PROGRAM FOR UNEMPLOYED

Unemployment not only spells terrible misery for the victims, but also increases the pressure on workers in the factories. Thus the introduction of a 5-day week with no reduction in pay corresponds to the interests of employed and unemployed workers alike. The slogan "Equal wages for equal work" is our slogan for the struggle against low pay for women and the youth.

There is hardly another country where taxation is so loaded on the working people as Germany. Our demand for lowering of the wage-tax and for increasing the exemption to 250DM (German marks) is more than justified. We particularly ask for abolition of camouflaged mass exploitation through indirect taxes on consumer goods.

5. — We demand the 36-hour week for miners and others engaged in risky occupations.

6. — For the working youth we demand a weekly maximum of 40 hours including vocational training. In order to guarantee to the young adequate relaxation after a year of hard work, we favor a paid vacation equivalent to 24 working days. Not the employer nor the management, but the young worker must be allowed to choose the month for his or her vacation. Where an apprentice does the work of a journeyman, he should get a journeyman's wage.

We ask for control of the apprentices' vocational training by the shop committee in order to prevent apprentices from being forced to do any work that is not related to their vocational training.

For the youth in grammar and high schools and universities we demand complete freedom from all costs or fees connected with their studies, as well as the centralization and extension of scholarships and control over these by parents' associations and self-governing student bodies. We are in favor of full rights at the age of 18, including the right to vote. We flatly reject any "voluntary" compulsory labor service.

7. — The bankruptcy of health insurances and health services and the degradation of the health standards are obvious. We therefore demand the nationalization of medical insurance and services.

AGAINST THE FOREIGN OCCUPATION

8. — The presence of foreign occupiers in Germany not only imposes enormous material burdens upon the mass of the people, it obstructs the free development of the German labor movement and of German democracy. We therefore favor the withdrawal of all the occupation forces and the dissolution of all the armed formations they have created in West and East Germany. Failing this, a reunification of Germany is impossible. As socialists, we are for peace without annexations or indemnities.

9. — We condemn the Oder-Neisse frontier established by the victors and the practice of mass expulsions as inhuman measures which can never be approved by socialists. But we warn the refugees against the illusion that their problems can be solved through conquest by force of their former homeland through World War III. A new war would destroy their homeland along with the rest of Europe. At present, it is important to absorb these refugees into economic life with equal rights and in accordance with their occupations. Reactionary elements among the "displaced persons" attempt in collaboration with their West German friends to distract the refugees from defending their real interests by illusory promises of a return to their former homes. But we tell them that they can get a life worth living only by joining in the common struggle with the socialist labor movement.

10. — We demand the reintroduction of universal and proportional suffrage.

AGAINST THE PROFITEERS

11. — Since the currency reform 18 billions of West German marks, already reinvested as a self-financing of the economy, have been squeezed out of the working people by the West German capitalists alone. The profits from these invested billions plus the four and one half billions in occupation costs, along with the projected rearmament expenditure, would provide the funds for a large-scale housing and social program.

We favor a rigorous cut in top salaries in the administration, the economy and the state, a reduction of the parliamentarians' salaries, and the total cancellation of all expenses for so-called "representative" purposes.

Raising our social demands, we also say — and by this we distinguish ourselves from all demagogues — that their fulfillment is possible only at the expense of capitalist profits and consequently only in the class struggle against the system of capitalist exploitation.

For the Committee for the Launching of the Independent Workers Party of Germany, the Political Committee.

Jupp Schappe, Georg Fischer
Hans Alfred Berger, Hamburg
Willy Boepple, Mannheim
Wolfgang Geese, Viersen (Rhineland)
Georg Jungclas, Aschaffenburg
Wolfgang Leonhard, Berlin
Franz Moitzfeld, Oberhausen (Rhineland)
Werner Sicher, Munchen
Hans Spittmann, Dusseldorf

THE MILITANT

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The Secret

By Theodore Kovalesky

It all began some twenty years ago. Stash was running the crane (because that was a white man's job), and Jeff and Roy were hooking up. Since there were just the three of them working there together, and since the amount of work they did could easily be checked, they had no foreman of their own. Harkins, the day superintendent, who looked in from time to time, was the only boss they knew. Very likely that is how the whole thing came to be possible.

One warm afternoon about twenty summers ago as I said, Jeff and Roy, the new man, were working the heavy chains under the steel and then hooking them into loops, while Stash watched them from the little cab above, hoisting the load when Jeff signalled. Young Harkins, the boss, had passed by eyeing them, and they were a little bit ahead in their work. Everything was as usual.

Then, unaccountably, Stash stopped his load halfway up. Jeff raised his eyes to the cab just in time to meet Stash's wild glare and hear his breathy howl, a sort of "oooooh!", as though he had been kicked in the stomach. Roy whirled to look, but he saw only Stash's clutching fingers waving for a moment in the cab window and Jeff already racing up the ladder, crawling along the rails to the crane, then down to the platform and inside.

Jeff moved the crane back to the ladder, and Roy went up. Stash was lying limp and white on the floor of the cab. The seizure was over but for a slight twitching. "Man had a fit," Jeff said.

"We better call Mr. Harkins," Roy suggested.

"We do that and he gets fired."

"Hell with him," flared Roy. "He ain't but a damn white man, and they wouldn't give you or me his job. He gonna kill us some day working down below when he has one of them damn fits!"

"He stopped the crane before he had his fit," Jeff said quietly. "He can tell when it's coming, so he won't kill us. And he needs a job just like you or me."

"He wouldn't worry about you. . ."

"Man, how I know what he'd do? Now get on down that ladder and hook up for me, and remember, if Harkins comes back, Stash just gone to the locker room for a little while and he'll be coming back."

And that's the way it was. The secret was kept between the three men for twenty years. The hard times eased. War flared, and industry boomed. War ended, and work slackened a little and picked up again. There had been strikes, there was a union now. Some Negroes became crane operators. There were vacations with pay.

At first the vacations seemed a problem, but since Jeff and Roy took theirs at different times there was always one of them on the job, and they managed to cover up for Stash. Besides, Stash didn't have fits too often.

But then, quite suddenly as these things happen, it was all over. Jeff was on his vacation. Roy, a few minutes late, dashed into the street to catch his bus. He heard a shriek of brakes and felt a crushing blow. When he awoke in the ambulance he learned that both legs were broken.

Meanwhile Harkins stormed into the labor gang's shanty and got a youngster named Jimmy Kelly to fill in for Roy. For twenty years they'd been lucky, but now it happened, because Jimmy, you understand, just didn't know.

He happened to be looking right at the cab window. He saw the craneman's face twist and the eyes bulge. He saw the desperately clawing fingers, heard the terrible, gasping "oooooh!' Jimmy raced out into the yard yelling, "Mr. Harkins! Mr. Harkins!"

They got Stash down to the ground. The ambulance took him to the dispensary. The secret was out.

Harkins was nice. "We hate to let you go, Stash," he told him. "You're an old employee and a steady worker. But it just isn't safe to have you working here. If you didn't kill somebody else, you might kill yourself."

Now Jeff runs the crane, and Roy and Jimmy are his hook-up men. But somehow it's different. Jimmy's a nice kid. He's sorry about what he did. Only, it's sort of lonesome without old Stash, the white fellow-worker whom the two Negroes protected so well. Twenty years is a long time.

The Talented Tenth

By J. Blake

A four-point program in the interest of the Negro uppercrust has been announced by six self-styled "leaders of various fields of endeavor of Negro life" who are asking Truman for a conference by Feb. 1 to discuss it.

Completely ignoring the needs of more than 14 million Negro people — soldiers, workers, small businessmen and youth — the six propose the following policy for the administration:

"1. Action by the President to abolish Jim Crow in the nation's capital, as an emergency war measure.

"2. Appointment of a Negro as a ranking administrative assistant or secretary to the President at the White House.

"3. Integration of qualified Negroes into the policy-making bodies of government.

"4. Integration of qualified Negroes into the higher echelons of the foreign services in all embassies and councils of the United States of America, in all countries of the world."

According to the **Pittsburgh Courier** of Jan. 20 in which this program appeared, the "little man" will be represented when the six leaders meet to discuss these policies with Truman. If the "little man" expects to receive any of the appointments requested in this program, he is represented, but not otherwise. Lieut. Gilbert and the other Negro soldiers suffering from Army jim crow in Korea will have no spokesman at the conference. Nor the mounting number of victims of police brutality from Los Angeles to New York. Nor the millions of Negro workers at the bottom of the heap in factories, on farms or in service trades.

The six leaders who misrepresent themselves as speaking for the Negro people are President A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Executive Secretary Walter White of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; National Urban League Director Lester Granger; Director Channing H. Tobias of the Phelps-Stokes Foundation; and two college presidents, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune and Dr. Benjamin Mays.

All six have lost their moorings completely if they think they can sell the Negro people this insulting substitute for a program to meet the needs of the times. A few glorified lackey jobs for the "talented tenth" and a more comfortable Washington, D. C. for them to live in is a program to make Frederick Douglass turn over in his grave and to make living Negroes look for new leaders.

Randolph, particularly, should remember that it is possible to make gains in the Negro struggle by pressing the advantage when the American ruling class is in difficulties. It was in a similar situation before World War II that the March on Washington Movement seeking an end to jim crow in industry mobilized hundreds of thousands of Negroes. Roosevelt called Randolph in for a conference then, and issued the Fair Employment Practices Executive order in exchange for Randolph's promise to call off the march.

Randolph apparently thinks it was his conference with Roosevelt, not the aroused Negro masses, that secured the concession from Roosevelt. Now this leader has shrunk to the size of his new base, a puny handful of would-be yes-men for Truman. Randolph's program of action has degenerated accordingly from demonstrations of the independent strength of the Negro people to respectful requests for conferences with Truman, the politician who has withdrawn even his empty election promises of civil rights legislation.

Randolph and the others concluded their wire to Truman by meekly pledging their "cooperation and support to the government in these dreadful days of decision and destiny."

These are days of decision and destiny and those leaders who fail to measure up in vision, program, and courage will be swept aside to make room for bold new men and women capable of leading the struggle for Negro rights to victories.

Sinclair Lewis

By George Lavan

Sinclair Lewis, famous American novelist and Nobel Prize winner, died on Jan. 10 in Italy. Some months before he had told reporters he was working on another novel which had as its theme "the middle class, that prisoner of the barbarian Twentieth Century."

This was Lewis' life-long theme. His numerous novels dwell entirely on the American middle class. And no one can deny his talent in his chosen field.

Lewis achieved fame in the early Twenties with **Main Street** and **Babbitt.** These were satirical novels about the well-to-do people of typical Western cities. With a wealth of detail that carried overwhelming conviction, the sham and futility of the lives of the "respectable" element were depicted.

In Gopher Prairie and Zenith, as in all other cities of the U.S., the only lasting bond between man and man in middle class circles was the cash payment or expectation thereof. This middle class was hopelessly regimented in its outlook and opinion.

Lewis' novels caused a furore precisely because they hit the bull's eye so squarely. And in proportion were the attacks on him. Some critics hotly denied that Lewis gave a true picture of his subject. Shameless distortion and exaggeration was their cry!

In **Arrowsmith,** Lewis describes a talented and idealistic young doctor, who sees in science the answers to mankind's problems, goes through the rat-race of a medical career. He finds that capitalism has enslaved science and broken men as good as he.

In **Elmer Gantry,** that holy of holies — organized religion — was dissected and labeled. Here were seen not the sincere preachers of an earlier epoch but a cynical and corrupt clergy engaging in religion as a business.

In 1929 a wave of strikes broke out in the Southern textile mills. The organization of Southern labor hung in the balance. The industrialists knew this and the strikers were being shot down in cold blood.

Lewis went down South as a reporter. He gave no "objective" report. He told the truth and made no bones about where his sympathies lay — with the impoverished mill workers fighting for a better life. His fine series of articles on the textile strikes were printed as a pamphlet by the AFL Textile Workers Union.

It was shortly after this that Lewis tried to write a novel about the labor movement and then decided he couldn't. He was a product of the class he so mercilessly satirized. His revolt was that of a sensitive mind which resented the stifling atmosphere of the middle class.

When the Great Depression rocked the U.S. Lewis with his sensitive ear attuned to the middle class wrote a novel warning of the danger of fascism in this country. **It Can't Happen Here** pictured the rise to power of a made-in-the-U.S.A. dictator.

Of Lewis' more recent novels **Kingsblood Royal** is outstanding. This dealt with race prejudice. It sold the staggering number of a million and a half copies. The hero (part Negro) and his friends, white and black, defend his home with the weapons they can gather against a mob. The critics thought that the violent ending was "far-fetched" and not the moral to their liking for a book on the Negro question. Actually Lewis' insight into American life was demonstrated precisely by such things as the violent end to Kingsblood Royal. He saw that the jim-crow elements would never grant equal rights to the Negro people without a battle. He also saw that Negroes will have white allies in the fight to the death against racism.

Lewis' death is a sad loss to America. While he couldn't write about the labor movement, he was eminently qualified to write about the labor leaders. Studying those circles he would instantly have recognized the brother types of the Babbitts and Gantries of his acquaintance. A re-reading of his novels today helps one to understand the patent-medicine "commentators" of the radio, the personalities of Congress and last but not least Harry S. Truman, whose personality seems a plagiarism from Lewis.

BRIGGS WORKERS VOTE TO AUTHORIZE STRIKE

By Paul Gordon

DETROIT — "We didn't stand for it in '37, and we are not going to stand for it now." So spoke Jess Ferraza, International UAW Representative, Briggs Director, at a special strike action meeting last week. This observation was greeted with a tremendous ovation by the Briggs workers, who have long been fed up with the bureaucrats' policy of appeasement to big business. The workers overwhelmingly voted in favor of strike action.

The spirit of the meeting took a familiar turn however, once the bureaucrats were assured that they had popular support. The workers were told to return to work on Monday, and under the same conditions which had forced them to hit the bricks three times the previous week; while their representatives negotiated with management under management's terms.

One of these terms was that a militant member of the shop committee who had been discharged while fighting speedup, remain in the same status and not even be allowed into the meeting to argue his own case, as is provided for in a supplementary agreement. Ferraza also told the workers that while he had many times in the past disagreed with irresponsible (his term) action of the militant Briggs workers that this was a just cause.

FIVE YEAR CONTRACT

He failed to discuss why the company felt that this was an opportune time to institute this speedup and attack the very foundation of the union. He didn't mention who gave the company such weapons as five year contracts and no-strike pledges.

When some workers tried to get the floor to ask about workers who had been fired months ago for fighting these same speedups, and who were still out because they opposed Reuther and his administration, they were told that all other business had been suspended except the strike vote. One member asked that a strike committee immediately be set up, but he was not recognized.

STATE SEDITION LAW TRIAL OF 3 OPENS IN PITTSBURGH

By F. Forest

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 19 — The "State Sedition Trial" against three leaders of the Communist Party of Western Pennsylvania has opened here this week. The three on trial are Steve Nelson, District Organizer, Andrew Onda, alleged organizer of steel workers, and James Dolsen, correspondent for the **Daily Worker.**

The trial comes about as a result of a raid on Communist Party headquarters staged last summer by Judge Michael A. Musmanno when the judge was running for the office of Attorney General on the Democratic Party ticket and was storming through CP headquarters in the state and threatening their legal existence. In this raid he was helped by Matt Cvetic, notorious FBI labor spy who posed as a CP member ever since the war, and two detectives, Joseph Becker and George Marshall.

On the basis of this "information" thus illegally seized, Judge Musmanno as a "private citizen" swore out a warrant for the arrest of the three CP leaders. The basis was the alleged violation of the State Sedition Act of 1939. This notorious act, anticipatory of the police-state McCarran Act by more than a decade, had never before been used. The act is so broad that even lampooning any U.S. government policy through cartoons can be judged "seditious."

The trial is being held in the court of Judge Henry X. O'Brien. The great interest in the trial on the part of the public can be seen in the jammed court rooms. At this moment it is not possible to see the political line that will be followed by the Communist Party in this trial since Steve Nelson, who is acting as his own attorney, and Defense Attorney John T. McTernan, who is the chief defense lawyer for Onda and Dolsen, have been refused the privilege of making a statement until after the prosecution has finished its case.

CARL SKOGLUND

Veteran Unionist Is Victimized By Immigration Dept.

Suppose you were 67 years old and had worked from early youth as a lumberjack, railroad shopman and teamster. Suppose your efforts all these years were devoted to advancing labor's cause.

Suppose you had remained true to the principles of union solidarity and your socialist ideas, despite blacklisting, persecution, prison and an FBI offer to turn informer.

Suppose in your 67th year the Immigration Department ordered your deportation from the United States where you had lived for 40 years.

These are the grim realities facing Carl Skoglund today.

Broad New Powers Planned for FBI

WASH., D. C. — Plans are afoot to ask the 82nd Congress for more sweeping powers for the FBI. The new bill would enable investigators to arrest an individual whom they suspect of committing a crime, before the crime was committed.

It is also planned to provide the G-men with the power of arrest without warrant; that is, an arrest could then be made solely upon the discretion of the individual agent.

N.Y. Politicians Pushing Another Rent Increase

By Milton Matthews

Inflation, the disease of capitalism that cripples the living standards of millions of workers struck another hammer-blow last week when New York State Rent Administrator Joseph D. McGoldrick released his "15 percent rent raise" plan. This piece of landlord legislation becomes law Mar. 15 if not vetoed by Feb. 15.

Chances of a veto are nil with a Democratic and Republican coalition afoot to kill public discussion, keep rank and file legislators in line, and place the hot issue under wraps for the next few weeks until, they hope, mass resentment has cooled.

LABOR PROTESTS

Labor responded at once to this blow. The United Labor Action Committee on Jan. 22 urged a million New York State union members to plan rent strikes after March 15 if the boss parties adopt the plan. Thursday, Jan. 25, was designated as "Rent Control Day" and workers distributed a million leaflets condemning the rent raise as a wage cut.

The McGoldrick plan is typical of the means used by landlords to get rent increases of 43.6 percent in Chicago, 34.5 percent in Los Angeles and 25.4 percent nationally, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

HOUSING SURVEY

The plan is based on an intensive survey of state housing conditions. Some of the facts the survey uncovered are the following: 1. N. Y. State is 250,000 dwelling units short of its needs, 2. Net income of landlords in New York City has increased 17.2 percent over the wartime base period. 3. More than 86 percent of city landlords earned net incomes last year between 20-49.9 percent of gross income. This last statistic shows that these landlords could not even qualify for increases under the last Federal rent formula which set 20 percent as its base. It was, ostensibly, the hardships endured by tenants under the Federal formula that led — in an election year naturally — to the enactment of the New York State Emergency Housing Rent Control Law of 1950, giving the state control over rents.

The survey proved landlords did not merit increases, but McGoldrick violated the obvious conclusions of his own statistics.

Point one of his plan will permit rent raises if the net return is less than four percent of the assessed valuation of property. In computing operating expenses, landlords are allowed to include two percent of valuation for depreciation. This fair income formula already has been declared "arbitrary and unlawful" by the New York Supreme Court and the State Court of Appeal.

RENT RAISES

The fair value formula permits the same landlord to raise his rents "ad infinitum" since he could first raise his rent on the basis of his assessed valuation, then raise the valuation of his property on the basis of the new rent increases, thereby qualifying for a new rent increase because of the higher assessed property valuation. This phony formula becomes law if the legislature affirms the plan.

Point two permits a "voluntary" agreement between landlord and tenant for a 15 percent boost with a two-year lease. The voluntary feature is a subterfuge to "blackjack" tenants into accepting rent raises under the pressure of a dire need for necessary services and facilities.

Of the seven points in the plan that cover rent increases and include the easing of the eviction laws, perhaps the most odious is the one permitting a rent raise where the number of sub-tenants or occupants increase in a single apartment.

This clause hits hardest at the Negro people in the Harlem Ghetto. Rents there were originally frozen at high levels and tenants are forced to take in boarders in order to pay the rent and meet the spiraling cost of living. If this plan becomes law, tenants of Harlem will be penalized for not being able to afford living alone in a ghetto home.

Letters from Readers

Editor: Knowing your long record of consistency and honesty, I was surprised by some discrepancies in the article by Suzanne Leonhard, **A Voice from Stalin's Prison-camp. (Jan. 15 Militant.)** Some details are merely muddy, e.g., if Lola Ginsburg married Smirnov, her married name would be Smirnova — yet "Lola did not trust her roommate Smirnova." In the final column of the article, reference is made to GPU (which existed 1922-1935), NKVD (successor to GPU), and Okhrana (the Czarist secret police) which seems to offer these three separate, historically disparate organizations as identical. Such inattention to detail has no place in **The Militant;** I shall look forward to a brief note of explanation in next week's issue. Thank you and good luck.

K. M.
New York City

P. S. Ernest Germain is excellent. I hope you'll print more articles by him more often.

Editor's Reply: The errors so helpfully called to our attention by reader K. M. are errors not of commission but of omission. But they remain errors nonetheless.

Soviet women, in the first instance revolutionists, have long been accustomed, unlike the practice prevailing among other Occidentals, to retain their own names during and after marriage. Thus the wife of Lenin is not known as "Mrs. Lenin" but as Nadezhda Constantinovna Krupskaya; And, so too in the case of Lola, who while married to Smirnov, retained her name of Ginsburg.

The woman "Smirnova" referred to in the text in question, was an altogether different person, a prison room-mate. Reader K. M., along with most of our readers, had no way of telling for lack of this explanation, which ought to have been included parenthetically in the text.

A similar confusion in many readers' minds must have likewise arisen because of our failure to explain that the GPU and the NKVD are simply different names for Stalin's secret police. And moreover, that these killers — who also serve as guards in slave-labor camps — have come to be so hated by the Soviet masses that the popular reference (among trusted company, of course!) to them is that of **Okhranschiki** or the **Okhrana** (the name of the secret police under the crowned Czars in the Kremlin).

While reader K. M.'s criticism is itself imprecise as to the form, it is correct in its gist. "Such inattention to detail has no place in **The Militant,**" he says. We subscribe to this with both hands and we thank K. M. in particular for helping us guard against such faults in the future.

* * *

Dear Editor: I heard a war story in the rubber shop last night and believe it is worth repeating:

"How can I tell a North Korean from a South Korean," a sergeant asks a colonel.

"That's easy," says the colonel. "When you see a Korean running at you, shout 'Stalin's nuts!' You'll find out soon enough."

A few weeks later the colonel makes a tour of inspection in a military hospital. He notices the sergeant who is lying in one of the beds, a badly battered casualty

"How were you wounded?" the colonel asks. "Well," replies the sarge, "I see this Korean charging me. I shout 'Stalin's nuts!' He shouts 'Truman's crazy!' While we are shaking hands one of them big tanks runs over us."

I heard this joke from a rubber worker during a lunch period bull session. Everybody laughed. Maybe this is a straw in the wind. Maybe people are beginning to think that not only the Kremlin gang but also the Pentagon butchers are unfit to govern.

The joke suggests that workers accept the idea that victims of the world's criminally insane rulers have much in common.

One swallow doesn't make a summer, but one day thoughts like these will be on millions of tongues. Then woe to Truman and Stalin and all they represent.

Rubber Worker
Akron, O.

New York

Lenin Memorial Meeting

"The Asian Revolution and the Crisis of World Imperialism"

Speaker
DAVID L. WEISS

Chairman
ROSE KARSNER

Wed., Jan. 31 - 8 PM

Adelphi Hall
74 Fifth Ave. (Off 14th St)

Minneapolis

Sunday Forum

"Europe: a Pawn in American Imperialism's Game"

Speaker
V. R. DUNNE

Sun., Feb. 4 - 3:30 PM

10 S. 4th Street

Admission Free

Auspices:
Socialist Workers Party

THE MILITANT ARMY

Gladys Barker's open letter to Congressman Adam Clayton Powell in **The Militant** urging a march on City Hall to protest the cold-blooded police murder of the Negro veteran, John Derrick, won new friends for America's leading socialist weekly in New York's Negro communities last week. Members of the Militant Army who took the paper into the streets and neighborhoods sold 697 copies.

Door-to-door sales were good. **Ethel B.** and **Dorothy Johnson** of the New York **Youth** Branch of the Socialist Workers Party reported they met with only one refusal to buy a **Militant.** At another home, a woman made up for this by taking a subscription after looking the paper over.

Dorothy Royce of **Brooklyn,** selling in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area, said that five of her customers asked about meetings advertised in **The Militant** and indicated their interest in learning more about socialism.

On the streets, not a few workers listening in on conversations between **Militant** sales people and prospective customers asked for a copy. A student took two extra copies for friends and asked for more information about socialism when he finishes his exams in a few weeks. A number of customers on learning that **The Militant** is a socialist paper told the sales person to "keep the change."

Yvonne of the **Youth,** a beginner in selling **The Militant,** scored the highest with 61 copies to her credit. And it wasn't just beginner's luck. She found that a brief explanation of the difference between **The Militant** and other papers was a powerful "convincer."

Other high scorers were **Rhoda, 47,** and **George Rock, 44. Zeb** rolled up 30 in Bedford Stuyvesant and then another 9 in Harlem. **Lucille** sold 35; **Milt, 32; Ruth Thorne, 30; Mary Leo, 26; Frank Z., 25; Ben Stone, 24;** and **Beezie, 23.**

* * *

Last Sunday some of the **Minneapolis** members of the Militant Army went neighborhood visiting with socialist literature. It was a brisk morning, in fact "18 below out at our place," writes Literature Agent **P. S.** It warmed up gradually, however, to 10 below and the comrades did all right. "We sold 29 copies of **The Militant** and along with them 86 copies of the pamphlets, **Jobs for All** and **Voice of Socialism. One** of the comrades got a one-year subscription." It seems that not all the people in the neighborhood appreciated the bracing atmosphere and were staying in bed to keep warm. This was something of an obstacle as "it is hard to talk to people when they are still half asleep."

* * *

The **St. Paul** contingent are also doing well. They ran short last week and had to order extra **Militants.** "**Paul** sells 5 a week regularly in his shop, sometimes more. And **Bill** sells from 2 to 10 a week on the campus as a regular thing," Literature Agent **Winifred Nelson** writes.

* * *

Jane Sebastian, reporting for **San Francisco,** sent in five renewal subscriptions, the result of a Sunday's work. "On Saturday 20 copies of **The Militant** were sold on a busy street corner in the Negro community."

* * *

B. P. J. of **British Columbia,** Canada, upon renewing his subscription, gave as his opinion that "**The Militant** is the best guide to fast moving events. **James P.** Cannon hit the bull's eye in his pamphlet **The Coming American Revolution.** Only an aroused people can set things right."

CHICAGO
Socialist Workers Party Hdqs.
5th Ward — 5558 Ellis
for
IRVING BEININ
SWP Candidate for Alderman
5th Ward
Open Weds. from 7 to 10 p.m.